

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to employ more idiomatic English and to correct grammatical errors.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention over the prior art. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Okino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,277,542) or Masui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,983,252), claim 1 has been amended to specify that “high density and low density batch projections are equal in area.” Neither Okino et al. nor Masui et al. teaches this. Okino et al. teaches a high frequency region 5 and a low frequency region 3 with microfeatures 11 and 15 (FIG. 1), specifically for the purpose of making feature density more uniform overall (col. 4, lines 61-41). Okino et al. does not teach or suggest these microfeatures areas should be equal in area (FIG. 1). Thus, claim 1 cannot be said to be obvious from Okino et al.

Masui et al. is similarly deficient. Masui et al. is only concerned with forming a high density wiring pattern on a substrate (Abstract). Nowhere does Masui et al. discuss low density and high density batch projections being equal in area. Thus, neither Okino et al. nor Masui et al. could be said to teach or render obvious claim 1, nor any claims dependent therefrom.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

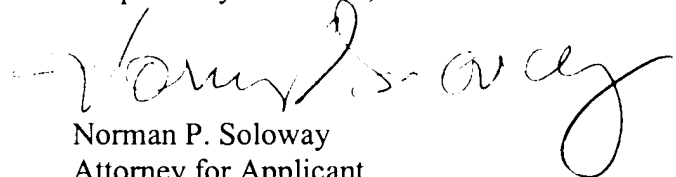
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Respectfully submitted,



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